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Electricity

Reservation of the Palar basin for the development of rural load of electricity.

* 400 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any memorials from the ryots in the Palar basin requesting them to undertake power distribution to the rural areas themselves;

(*b*) if the answer is in the affirmative, what action has been taken thereon;

(*c*) whether a copy of the memorial will be placed on the table of the House; and

(*d*) whether there is any proposal before the Government to reserve the Palar basin in the North Arcot district for the development of rural load of electricity derived from the Mettur Hydro-Electric system so that it may serve as an object lesson to the private licensees elsewhere to develop rural load?

A.—(*a*) & (*c*) Yes. A copy [a] of the memorial is attached.

(*b*) The question is under consideration.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know whether the Chief Engineer for Electricity has been consulted in the matter?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"Yes, Sir; the Government are in correspondence with him."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Will the Government be pleased to consider the question favourably in view of the fact that the Palar basin area contains the largest acreage of well-irrigated lands in the Presidency?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu:—"Certainly, Sir, it will be considered."

Prisons and Prisoners

Reconsideration of the question of supplying buttermilk to the prisoners in jails.

* 401 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any proposals for re-examining the question of providing buttermilk to all the prisoners in jails; and

(*b*) if so, what they are and at what stage they are?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 504–505 infra.

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Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" If there are no definite proposals, may I know whether there is anything being investigated with regard to this matter? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" No, Sir."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether, in view of the recent researches in food nutrition, the Government will be pleased to consider proposals for the modification of the diet given to the prisoners? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" The question was considered at the time when there were a large number of political prisoners in jails; there are no political prisoners at present. Moreover it is a question of cost."

Mr. G. R. PREMAYYA:—" Will the Hon. Member be pleased to state whether buttermilk is a luxury and if so, whether it will be taxed? "

Control of Newspapers and Printing Presses

Deposit and forfeiture of securities by newspapers and periodicals in the Presidency since 1931 *pursuant to the operation of the Press Act.*

* 402 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to the working of the Press Act in this Presidency since 1931—

(*a*) the number of the newspapers and other periodicals that were called to furnish security under the Press Act;

(*b*) the number of newspapers and periodicals which furnished the security and the total amount so deposited; and

(*c*) whether any of the newspapers or periodicals had forfeited the security deposited; if so, their number and the total amount so forfeited?

A.—(*a*) Fifty-one. This figure includes demands under section 7 (1) of the Act by District Magistrates and the Chief Presidency Magistrate in respect of new periodicals or newspapers.

(*b*) Nineteen, and the total amount deposited, Rs. 18,200. The deposits have been returned except in four cases.

(*c*) Yes; in one case the Government ordered a sum of Rs. 500 to be forfeited. As the High Court set aside the forfeiture order the amount has since been refunded.

Deposit and forfeiture of securities by presses in the Presidency since 1931, *pursuant to the operation of the Press Act.*

* 403 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to the working of the Press Act in this Presidency since 1931—

(*a*) the number of presses that were called upon to deposit security, the number of presses which deposited the amount and the total amount so deposited; and